(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any immediate steps are being taken by the Government for taking stringent penal action against the police in the cases of persecution of citizens without any reasons and in unfounded concocted cases and in the cases of violation of human rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) An internal Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (ISP) in the Ministry of Home Affairs to review the recommendations of the National Police Commission including the replacement of the Police Act, 1861.

(c) to (e) It is essential for the States to take such measures as are necessary to ensure that Human Rights are not violated by their police personnel and that penal action is taken against such police personnel who are found guilty of the same. The Government of India, on its part, have, from time to time, been issuing necessary instructions to the States to curb violation of Human Rights by the police personnel. It has clearly been brought to the notice of the States that every allegation of violation of Human Rights by members of law enforcement agencies must be attended to speedily and with transparency and stringent punishment be awarded wherever an official is found guilty.

[English]

Common Minimum Programme in the Fields of Agriculture

931. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Common Minimum Programme in the field of agriculture;

(b) whether the regulations/control put in the way of increasing the farmers income; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for abolition of such regulations/controls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Relevant extracts from 'the United Front—A Common Approach to Major Policy Matters and a Minimum Prgoramme' are given in the *Statement* attached. The important regulations/orders under the control of the Central Government relate to Rice Milling Industries Regulation Act, 1958, Cold Storage Order, 1980, Milk and Milk Products Control order, 1992, Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, Sugar (Control) Order, 1966, Sugar (Packing and Marketing) Order, 1970 and quantitative restrictions on exports of agricultural commodities. A beginning has already been made for review and repealing of the Regulations/Control Orders, wherever found feasible. The Rice Milling Industries Regulation Act, 1958 and the Cold Storage Order, 1980 have already been repealed.

Statement

Extracts from the United Front—A Common Approach to Major Policy Matters and a Minimum Programme

The Agriculture sector cries out for reforms. No strategy of economic reforms and regeneration in India can succeed without sustained and broad-based agricultural development. The rate of investment in agriculture will be stepped up. All controls and regulations that are in the way of increasing the incomes of farmers will be reviewed immediately and abolished wherever found unnecessary. Controls on the movement of agricultural products and on the processing of agricultural products will be abolished. Measures will be taken to ensure that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce. Special attention will be devoted to augmenting rural infrastructure. A special plan for infrastructure development will be taken up in the 100 most backward and poorest districts of the country. The rural credit system will be restructured so as to double the flow of credit to agriculture and agro-industries, particularly to small and marginal farmers, within 5 years. A national policy on water sharing and water management will be devised in order to save farmers all over the country from recurrent floods and droughts.

Agencies that supply inputs to farmers will be professionalised and where found feasible converted into farmer-owned cooperatives. Agricultural research and extension organisations will be thoroughly overhauled. The most modern technology will be brought to the farm sector, e.g. bio-technology for livestock and cold storage for agro-processing.

A comprehensive law will be made by Parliament in respect of agricultural workers to guarantee them minimum

wages and fair conditions of work, group insurance and other rights.

States will be encouraged to implement land reforms by plugging the legal and administrative loopholes. States will also be urged to make a law dealing with land records including record of tenancy rights. In cooperation with the States, larger funds will be allocated for irrigation and extension of cultivation.

Poaching of Animals

932. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of poachers of rare species of animals brought to book so far since 1990;

(b) the number out of them made ineffective for poaching;

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Spying by B.S.F. Personnel

933. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Security Force personnel were found involved in spying activities for other countries during January 1995 to June, 1997;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against such personnel by the Government; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check this evil practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1.1.95 to 30.6.97 no BSF personnel were found involved in spying for other countries. However, one Constable of BSF deployed at Jaisalmer was picked up on April 6, 1997 by Rajasthan Police as his name figured during interrogation of the suspects. The case is under investigation.

(c) Security measures have been tightened and the men have been sensitised to be more vigilant.

Quota of Wheat Released to Assam

934. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat quota released under the Public Distribution System by FCI to Assam during each of the last three years and upto July, 1997;

(b) the reasons for erratic release of PDS quota to the State during the last few years;

(c) whether requests have been received to enhance the quota;

(d) whether the Government propose to streamline the release of PDS quota to the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether FCI has not released the allotted PDS quota to few districts of Assam including Tinsukia and Dibrugarh since January, 1997;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether any norms are being followed by FCI for such allotments;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not the alternative arrangement being made to continue flow of food-grains in case FCI is not able to fulfil the requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The Allocation and Offtake of wheat under P.D.S. (including RPDS) in Assam has been as under:-

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Wheat		
(April-March)	Allocation	Offtake	% Offtake
1994-95	310.00	277.30	89.45
1995-96	360.00	351.70	97.69
1996-97	355.50	301.90	85.00
1997-98			
April-May, 97	60.00	53.20	88.67
T.P.D.S			
June, 97	20.38	N.A.	
July, 97	20.30	N.A.	